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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2012

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# INPORT NEWS



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## MESSAGE DELIVERED

### Canada Post ordering rural residents to move their mailboxes

**MARYANNE FIRTH**  
InPort News Staff

**PORT COLBORNE** — Janet Phillips wants to deliver a message to Canada Post.

"I'm not moving it," she said as she glanced over to the mailbox in front of her Lorraine Rd. home.

Phillips received a notice from Canada Post on Aug. 22 explaining a rural mail safety review had been conducted in the area. It was determined her mailbox was one of many that need to be posted elsewhere.

The box's current home is about 1.5 metres from the road, allowing the rural mail carrier ample room to pull over a vehicle and make the seconds-long stop to make a delivery, Phillips said.

A new location for the mailbox has already been flagged, and she isn't pleased.

The box is slated to be several metres from her driveway on the boulevard. It will open only a half-metre from the roadway.

see SAFETY STANDARDS | page 2



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Port Colborne resident Wayne Huffman is not pleased to hear he must move his mailbox to another part of his property following a rural mail safety review conducted by Canada Post.



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# upfront

## ■ SAFETY STANDARDS

# Canada Post: 'Move your mailboxes'

FROM PAGE 1

The suggested distance has left Phillips questioning the risks the mailbox and its connected steel post pose if moved, particularly in the dead of night. Her mailbox now sits under a streetlight, but once moved about 30 metres it will be immersed in darkness come nightfall.

"How long until a car hits it or a snow plow takes it out?" she said.

In the 36 years she's lived on Lorraine Rd., Phillips said she's never had an incident with the mailbox in its current location.

She believes the move may even put her at risk, as it takes her away from her driveway and the plowed section of the property where she's retrieving mail.

"They're trying to take any risk away for their carriers but they're putting us at risk."

Phillips' husband, Richard, who was home when the assessment was done, said he was told the move was recom-

## BY THE NUMBERS IN PORT COLBORNE

1,174 mailboxes were assessed

21 will be moved to community mailboxes (kiosks).

126 were slated for relocation

mended to ensure the box was 70 metres from the nearest intersection at Hwy. 3.

The couple have been given 20 days to comply with Canada Post's request and after that deadline, unless their mail will no longer be delivered.

"I resent they're threatening

"to take away my mail," Phillips said.

When she contacted Canada Post about her concerns, she said she was informed she would be able to pick up her mail at the local post office for 30 days after noncompliance as a "courtesy." After those 30 days, she'd have to pay to pick it up there, she said.

Phillips' neighbour, Wayne Huffman, has no intention of relocating his mailbox as Canada Post has requested. The road is not high-traffic, he said, and he does not understand why the move must be made.

"I've never heard of anything so ridiculous in my life," he said, adding the mailbox moves may end up doing more harm than good if they're not spotted by passing motorists.

Huffman's mailbox has been in the same spot for 42 years. It was just last year that he replaced the pole and box. With Port Colborne's known rocky foundation, Huffman suspects the foundation, Huffman suspects it will cost about \$300 to make the move 30 metres away.

He's also concerned about



MARYANNE FIRTH Star Photo

Port Colborne resident Richard Phillips holds a flag marking the spot where his mailbox, pictured in the background, is supposed to be relocated as the result of a rural mail safety review conducted by Canada Post.

what the move may mean in the winter time. Both Phillips and Huffman now plow the area around their mailboxes to ensure easy access for the carrier, but he said that may not be possible in their new location.

Huffman has called constituency offices of both Welland MP Malcolm Allen and MPP Cindy Forster to file complaints.

Ward 4 Coun. Barb Buttars has also been busy fielding calls from residents upset about proposed mailbox changes.

"No one understands the

safety audit review," she said, adding people have commented it "looks more like a make-work project than anything to do with safety."

"They're not doing a good job of saying why it's safer," she said, summing up the relocations.

Buttars has been trying to connect with Canada Post in hopes of getting some answers for the disgruntled residents.

Residents whose homes are under review receive a letter informing them the process is underway, said John Caines, manager of national media

relations for Canada Post. Those who are affected by the review and required to move their mailbox are then met with in person, when possible, to allow the Canada Post representative to explain the situation, he said.

It's "explained clearly" why the mailbox fails to meet safety standards put in place, he added.

There have been several accidents, and a few fatalities, involving mail carriers on rural roads across Canada, Caines said, adding "one is enough for us."

Canada Post has assessed about 700,000 rural mailboxes across the country since the safety review began in 2009.

A rural mail safety review is also currently underway in Wainfleet, said Mayor April Jeffries, who has also received calls from concerned citizens.

About 22 mailboxes in the Lakeshore Rd. area will be moving to a communal system, she said, unsure of other areas the review may affect.

"I feel for people," she said, worried about how the relocation of boxes will impact residents, particularly Wainfleet's seniors.

Despite her concerns, she was unsure what could be done to combat the changes.

*maryanne.firth@sunmedia.ca  
Twitter: @mfirthTribune*

## ■ SAFETY REVIEW

Canada Post's rural mail safety review includes the following criteria:

- Posted speed limit
- Volume and type of traffic in both directions
- Sight lines to the mail box from both directions
- Width of the shoulder of the road
- Number of lanes of traffic
- Type of centre line marking
- Legal restrictions (such as "No stopping" zone)
- Safety restrictions that apply to the location (e.g. proximity to a controlled/uncontrolled intersection, bridge or railway crossing)

■ Can the vehicle be stopped completely off the road (if so, a higher volume of traffic may be acceptable from a safety perspective. If any portion of the stopped vehicle is on the road and in the path of passing traffic, only lower traffic volumes are acceptable.)

## ■ The data collected is used to determine if there is

- Enough "decision sight distance" for other drivers to react safely to the mail carrier vehicle pulling off the road and stopping at a rural mailbox
- Safety gap in traffic for the mail carrier to safely merge back into traffic after making a delivery

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# portraits

## Catching waves in summer's waning days



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

A surfer rides a wave off of Port Colborne recently. Conditions were right for some good waves for about 30 surfers who took to the waters of Lake Erie.



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Kody Kasper, of California, rides a wave.



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Mike Sandusky, owner of surf shop Surf Ontario in Toronto, rides a wave off of Port Colborne.



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Two surfers walk down a beach in Port Colborne at sunrise.

# IMPORT NEWS

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## ourview

# Liberals running out of strategies

**D**alton McGuinty's Plan A has failed. His aggressive plan to restore his majority government by offering a plumb appointment to former Tory MPP Elizabeth Witmer, thus opening up a by-election in Kitchener-Waterloo that the Liberals desperately hoped to win in K-W.

Sure, they managed to hang on to Greg Sorbara's stronghold in Vaughan, but Scott Brison's riding type who kept his riding happy with promises of a hospital and subway.

So what's the Plan B for McGuinty? It's clear he's tired and wants to move on. Who can blame him? He's led his party into four elections and been premier for nine years. Much as the party owes him a lot, and much as he's the face of the Liberal brand right now, the party needs to bring in new blood.

Precipitating the Kitchener-Waterloo by-election was a costly mistake for McGuinty.

The cost of the two by-elections will likely run into half a million dollars.

And for what? For his personal considerations? To bring him back into a majority government?

So much for all the platitudes we hear from the Liberals about how they're going to bring the minority world to its knees.

The Liberals are bullies. They have absolutely no idea how to play nicely with other parties. If they're so eager to work with others to make the minority work, why were they out scouring the huses for opposition seats they could win over?

The Liberals have their annual general meeting slated for the end of this month in Ottawa. Oddly, though, with barely three weeks to go, all mention of the AGM has disappeared from their website.

The legislature is due to vote on crucial legislation freezing teacher pay and banning strikes next week. The bill was pure posturing on the part of the Liberals. I suspect they thought it would play well with their base of support in K-W. It backfired. Now that they've been burned, will the Liberals try to play nice with the teachers, unlikely as it is to come to a deal with them?

Perhaps the Liberals will now pause and prorogue Parliament in order to hold a leadership campaign. Suspending Parliament would put Progressive Conservative Leader Tim Hudak under even more pressure as Torys chew over their political future.

Plan C could be that McGuinty introduces another divisive, contentious piece of legislation. When, inevitably, all parties are at war and when MPPs are pitted against each other, he could head off to talk to L-G. David Onley and tell him this minority Parliament is unworkable and ask him to call an election.

This Liberal government is on life support and plagued with scandals.

Perhaps it's time for them to pull the plug on themselves.

[christina.blizzard@summedia.ca](mailto:christina.blizzard@summedia.ca)

## ENCOUNTERS

# Some interesting characters

**I** have worked as a cashier at several jobs at different stores in my teenage life. While counting money and being friendly with people isn't rocket science, it does have its challenges and most certainly its frustrations.

Exhibit A: Ye ole lady. We'll categorize this by calling her "Margie." This is always a tricky one, because you can't hear 'ol Margie coming up to the register due to her orthopedic shoes. But when she does, expect her to stay there for a while.

In between ringing up her items, she will find the time to show you a photograph of each of her 13 grandchildren and find out what school you go to, how many times you've been to the dentist, and what kind of toppings you like on your pizza.

The Margies of the world are usually friendly, and always



**Michelle Pressé**  
SMALL  
TOWN GIRL,  
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dump out a pound of hot Nickels onto the counter while counting each one with her middle finger, annoying everyone else waiting in line and causing the cashier to give a sympathetic look to everyone stuck behind her.

Then there's the Negotiator. The Negotiator claims to know every sale and price on each item in the store, and if it shows up as something higher on the receipt than what they originally anticipated, it turns into a show down.

The poor cashier will have to repeat and explain that the price is not what he or she thought, and when they still don't back down, the unlucky employee

has to hunt down the manager for backup.

But the Negotiator doesn't care, because even after defeat, they will try to reason with you by saying something along the lines of "I only wanted \$40. How about you give it to me for half price, I walk away happy, and we'll call it a day?"

This usually ends by them becoming so heated that they threaten to call head office, but do not actually get upset enough to actually make the effort to leaf through the phone book and get a hold of the CEO of whichever store they decided to annoy that day.

Another usual customer that pops into stores every where is "Crazy Daisy." This is the one who most likely did something illegal before entering the store, and walks in happy because they

got away with it and are about to go on a shopping spree of random things in one setting (i.e. popcorn popping machine, zebra printed pants, toilet paper, Double Bubble gum).

They walk up to the register and say "I'm sorry, but can you show me anything from the bloody mouse head their cat left on the welcome mat this morning, to their feelings of disappointment upon finding out that the Friends' episodes they've been watching for the past several years are really just reruns."

As a cashier, you meet a lot of interesting characters in a day.

While the job itself may not be as interesting as being Lindsay Lohan's lawyer, do not underestimate the importance of funny customers and stories that a cashier comes home armed with at the end of a shift.

## COLUMN

# I've been thinking: when I survey the cross

**INTERIM PASTOR**  
**GARY TOMILICK**  
Wainfleet Congregational  
Christian Church

**W**hy is the cross of Christ which is the sum and substance of the Christian life rarely mentioned in sermons in many churches today? Excepting Good Friday and Easter Sunday this all important subject is largely forgotten.

Most religions and ideologies take unto themselves a symbol that defines and represents what they stand for. Islam has the crescent, Judaism, the star of David, Buddhism, the lotus flower, the Marxist, the hammer and sickle and Christianity, the cross.

A cross could have represented the Lord's birth, a shiny throne and symbolize the Lord's kingship or a small stone could have been worn around one's neck to depict our faith but it is the cross that represents the desision, shame, and the curse upon which the Messiah would die for the world for you and me.

This is the universal symbol of Christianity. It represents his extremely painful death and it is not to be worn casually as an ornament or a fashion statement. Rather it is to be

carried upon the backs of every believer and lived out in radical obedience daily. The cross represented a curse for Christ is everyone who hangs on the tree. Yet out of this horrific ordeal came beauty, glory and victory. If you are a Christian do you boast, do you glory the empty cross?

During the crucifixion the victim was nailed to the cross and left to die a slow and agonizing death from thirst and exposure. Convulsions would set in as they tried to lift their legs and push up to breathe.

They would eventually die from asphyxiation. It was humiliating to be crucified near a garbage dump, to have bugs land on your open bloody wounds and to have birds pluck at you. Then to be stripped of all your clothes and be mocked by others watching you, laughing at your pain and suffering.

Many people were crucified but no one could take all of the sins of the world upon themselves like Jesus did past present and future and yet having no sin of their own. No wonder in his abandonment he cried out "My God My God why has thou forsaken me?" He shed his blood he was our substitute taking our place on that cross. He suffered our

death and the Hell we deserved and he gave us the forgiveness of sins and the Heaven that we didn't.

The ransom price was his perfect precious and priceless shed blood. It was the lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world. Anyone can receive this free and unmerited gift of salvation by repenting and confessing Jesus as Lord.

John 3:16 says "For God so loved the world that he gave his only son" but this statement must also be united with Romans 1:18: "For the wrath of God is being revealed against all the godlessness and wickedness of men." The love of God and the wrath of God can only be synthesized at the cross. First the Bad News the wrath of God abides upon the unbeliever then the Good News. The lost can be saved by the love of God and he can be saved from God's wrath in his settled disposition and righteous anger at sin. God doesn't have a short fuse. He is not temperamental nor cranky. He doesn't throw a temper tantrum like we do and call it righteous indignation. Nor is God a green-eyed monster who wants to squash people under his fingernails. And then Jesus meek and mild is sometimes viewed as a goody, toasty marshmallow who pleads with God not to destroy

us. On the contrary God gave his son for us and he is the one we judge everyone.

We can say with the apostle Paul "For I am not ashamed of the gospel for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes." Rotate the cross and look at it from different perspectives. Look up and see the nails in his hands and feet — look down and see his head bent over with his bloody scalp as those cruel thugs stuck him into it. Look, walk around and see his side which took that spear in his heart for Look behind and see his back shredded for you.

But now the cross has become the crown and the thorns. The cross is now empty and we say "By your blood you have purchased men from God from every tribe and nation. That is the new song they sang the song of heaven" - "Worthy is the Lamb to receive power, wisdom, strength, honour and glory."

Do you survey the cross on which the prince of glory died? "See from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down." Did ever love and sorrow meet or thorns compose so rich a crown?"

You can only see this at the cross. What is our only logical response to this? Love so amazing, so divine demands my soul, my life, my all.

■ TOURISM: Project in the works for the past two years

# Niagara's South Coast association moving forward

**MARYANNE FIRTH**  
InPort News Staff



**It's great to have so many businesses in the area all interested in becoming partners."**

Dave Elliott

**PORT COLBORNE** — Niagara's South Coast is only a few short steps away from officially having its own tourism association.

An interim board of directors has been created and its chairman, Stephen Thompson, was before Port Colborne council recently hoping to see the association take a step toward being registered as a not-for-profit corporation. Thompson, who also acts

mandate to reflect the new usage.

The city will update the letters of patent pertaining to Roselawn Corp., which has been inactive for several years.

The corporation began as the curling club long ago and had changed several times over the years, said Port Colborne's chief administrative officer Bob Heil, calling it a "shell corporation."

Once the name and purpose are changed, the corporation will stand as its own entity with no direct

## NIAGARA'S SOUTH COAST TOURISM ASSOCIATION

Interim board of directors include: Stephen Thompson as chairman, Jonathan George as vice-chairman, Lynn Coulet as secretary-treasurer, and Gloria Simon, Anne Mattuschuk, Dolores Fabiano and Kathy Buttigieg as directors at large.

Members will serve for one year to get the organization off the ground and then an election process from amongst the membership will be initiated.

The association's head office will be at the Port Colborne Visitor Information Centre, 75 Main St. W.

If you have a story idea or some news happening we want to hear from you:  
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association was apparent when more than 100 people showed up to a September 2011 meeting looking to get involved and express the importance of developing tourism in the Niagara's South Coast area, said Ward 1 Coun. Dave Elliott.

"It's great to have so many businesses in the area all interested in

becoming partners."

Though the project was initiated by Port Colborne, it's now a south Niagara initiative, stressed Mayor Vance Badaway.

Participants from Fort Erie, Wainfleet, Welland and Pelham have come on board, he said.

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## HERITAGE PORT COLBORNE

The Heritage Port Colborne Committee is pleased to announce a plaquing ceremony to celebrate the designation of the following property under the Ontario Heritage Act:

2703 Chippawa Road  
Humberstone School No. 6  
(Julia Yager Community Centre)



### REASONS FOR THE DESIGNATION

This property meets numerous criteria required for designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.

The current structure dates back to one of the oldest schools still in existence in what is now called Port Colborne and sits on the site of possibly the first school in this area. Consequently, the property has historical value or associative value because it has direct associations with institutions that have had significance to our community and the property yields information that contributes to an understanding of our community.

The style of this school is an example of the early 1900 style schools – “one room” red brick schoolhouses – and may contain some of the bricks used in the previous school structure, which dates back to 1866. Hence, the property has design value because it is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method and it displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit.

This building, being located at a visually dominant position at the intersection of two historic and old travelled roads, forms an important feature on what may be classified as a “cultural heritage landscape.” The property therefore has contextual value because it is important in defining and supporting the character of the area, is physically and functionally linked to its surroundings, and is a landmark. Furthermore, many of the original city founders would have been educated at this site.

### CEREMONY DETAILS

The ceremony will take place on Saturday, September 15, 2012 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at 2703 Chippawa Road. Cake and punch reception to follow. The Heritage Port Colborne Committee welcomes all interested parties to attend the ceremony.

If you have a story idea or  
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■ **INFRASTRUCTURE:** Applications made for funding

# Port wants '50-cent dollar' from Ottawa

MARYANNE FIRTH  
InPort News Staff

**P**ORT COLBORNE — City council is keeping fingers crossed for upwards of \$1 million in funding from the federal government.

Council directed city staff Monday night to submit two applications for funding to the Federal Economic Development Agency of Southern Ontario's Community Infrastructure Improvement Fund.

The CIIIF provides matching funds in excess of \$1 million for community and existing infrastructure improvement projects.

Council briefly discussed three projects suggested by staff that could benefit from the dollar-matching program, including the redevelopment of the Victoria square and King George Memorial Park, the Downtown Central Business District community improvement plan, streetscape design, and the East Waterfront cycling path extension.

It was ultimately decided, however, that the city would submit two applications for projects not on staff's initial list of three potential candidates.

Ron Hanson, the city's director of engineering and operations, suggested that council consider putting an application to fund the replacement of the Clarence St. storm sewer.

It gives the city a "50-cent dollar" on a sewer project that no funds are currently reserved in the bank for, Hanson said. No streetcape improvements can be done downtown until the storm sewer work is completed, he added. The project will cost an estimated \$1.7 million.

"It might not be the sexiest project, but it is what it is and needs to be done," said Mayor Vance Badaway.

Badaway suggested that a second application be submitted for the servicing of the city's east side industrial lands, north of Chippawa Rd. City staff wasn't certain whether the project would be eligible for the funding, but was advised to call and determine its eligibility before submitting the application.

A cost estimate for the east side industrial lands project was not available.

It will be determined at a later date, pending success of either application,

whether funds contributed from the city for the approved project will come from debenture or out of reserves.

Deadline to apply for the CIIIF program is Thursday. Approved projects must be completed by March 31, 2014.

[maryanne.firth@sunmedia.ca](mailto:maryanne.firth@sunmedia.ca)

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Badaway



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## ■ FITNESS: Aero Walkers members lace up three nights a week



VICTORIA GRAY Staff Photo

Adriana Cues hopes to help people get fit and have fun with the new Port Colborne Aero Walkers group.

## Group takes first steps

VICTORIA GRAY  
Input News Staff

Thursday and Saturday in the market square at 8:30 p.m.

They walk five different routes that span 4.8 kilometres to 6.5k. On Monday the group tends to walk a long route, Thursdays a shorter route and on Saturdays it picks different routes.

"I found that I was just feeling really good and I had lots of energy," Cues said of his inspiration for the walking club.

The group is looking for new members for the free fitness group and business sponsors. To join or sponsor people can show up at the square in downtown Port Colborne or e-mail [pcawc\\_walkers@hotmail.ca](mailto:pcawc_walkers@hotmail.ca).

For more information check out the Facebook page [www.facebook.com/PortColborneNightWalkers?ref=ts](http://www.facebook.com/PortColborneNightWalkers?ref=ts).

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■ EDUCATION: Alicia Pinelli continuing as member of provincewide council

# Teen adviser to education minister says youths need a voice

LINDSAY COSTELLO  
For InPort News

**PORTE COBORNE —** Like-minded youths came together this summer for the benefit of their peers, a valuable experience for a former Lakeshore Gator.

For 18-year-old Alicia Pinelli, the opportunity to implement change through her position in the Ministry Student Advisory Council continued this month as she travelled to Orillia for a five-day retreat known as the Ontario Educational Leadership Camp.

**It's really inspiring to hear you are not the only one who wants to change things."**

Alicia Pinelli

With students from across the province, she was able to use her time away from home to impact the learning environment.

Pinelli spoke one-on-one with Education Minister Liz Sandals to share her thoughts on issues affecting today's youth and provided her input during a series of workshops covering topics that included course con-

tent and learning life skills in the classroom.

After hearing about the position through her involvement in Lakeshore's student council, Pinelli applied. She is one of 60 students chosen from more than 400 applicants.

"I was really honoured to be chosen," she said of her involvement in the program. "I believe that there needs

to be an alternative voice," she said of her decision to apply, adding that for the province to have students' perspectives is important because it gives youths a chance to discuss their feelings about the issues they personally face.

Having first met with Broten in May, the Port Colborne resident was able to further interact this month and carried out her lessons in a one-on-one setting where she met others who share her passion.

"It's really inspiring to hear you are not the only one who wants to change

things," she said of the interaction with other participants.

She said while students held a similar mindset, each brought diverse ideas to the table. Students touched on a variety of subjects including empathy training for educators, mental health and the prominence of arts programming.

Pinelli spoke out about lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights as well as education for students with special needs.

The Lakeshore grad will continue to be part of the Ministry Student Advisory

Council while in college for the duration of her one-year term, which concludes in April.

She will be part of a group of students focusing on acceptance in schools and will connect with them via online meetings, which are monitored by the ministry.

Aliming for a bachelor's degree in public relations, Pinelli is now attending Conestoga College and will continue her pursuits to acceptability with the ultimate goal of working for a non-profit organization and bettering the quality of life in developing nations.

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Alicia Pinelli is pictured at Lakeshore Catholic High School in May 2012. File photo

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## WAINFLEET LIBRARY EVENTS

Events at the Wainfleet public library in September include:

**Ongoing - Computer workshops and one-on-one training** are available at the Wainfleet Township Public Library Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons. Please call the Library at 905-899-1277 to book an appointment.

**Thursday, September 13, 20, 27, October 4, 18 & 25 - Preschool Story Time** at the Wainfleet Township Public Library from 10 to 10:45 a.m.

This month's topic of discussion is "Conscience

A six-week program of stories, songs, rhymes and crafts for children ages 2-5 and their parent/caregivers. This session's theme is Fall Fun @ your Library. Please call 905-899-1277 to pre-register your attendance.

**Thursday, September 13 - Philosopher's Café** at the Wainfleet Township Public Library at 6:30 p.m. Drop by for a lively discussion.

and the Search for Truth." All welcome! No philosophy training required, real life experience desired!

**Friday, September 14 - LEGO** at the Wainfleet Township Public Library from 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Children of all ages can drop-in to build a LEGO or Mega Bloks creation. Please do not bring your own LEGOs.

**Monday, September 17 - Family Wii Night** at the

Wainfleet Township Public Library from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

All ages are welcome to drop-in to play Nintendo Wii.

**Wednesday, September 19 - eReader Workshop** at the Wainfleet Township Public Library from 1:30 to 3 p.m.

Learn how to use the Library's Sony eReaders that are available for loan. Or, learn how to access the OverDrive eBook collection on your own eReader. This workshop is

limited to adult participants with no current fines or overdues on their library account. Please call 905-899-1277 to pre-register by September 17.

**Thursday, September 20 starting at 3 p.m., Friday, September 21 & Saturday, September 22 - Book Sale** in the Meeting Room at the Wainfleet Township Public Library.

Find adult, teen and juvenile titles at great prices! No

donations will be accepted for this sale.

**Friday, September 21 - Gardening Workshop** at the Wainfleet Fall Fair from 2 - 3 p.m. Sponsored by the Wainfleet Township Public Library.

**Master Gardener, Vivian Shantz** will be holding a gardening workshop at the Wainfleet Fall Fair's Arena Stage. Fair Admission required. Please note that 2 p.m. is the correct start time.

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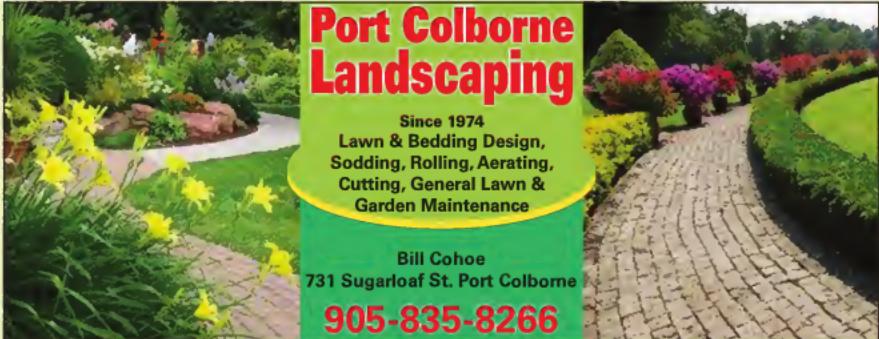
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■ PORT COLBORNE HOSPITAL: Organizers of 18-year-old event say they need a break

# Country Walk for Breast Cancer fundraiser put on hold for a year

DAVE JOHNSON  
InPort News Staff

**PORT COLBORNE** — After 18 years and raising more than \$400,000 for the mammography department at Port Colborne hospital, organizers of the annual Country Walk

for Breast Cancer are putting the big fundraiser on hold for a year.

"We have been thinking about this for some time and we made this decision over this summer," said Teresa Pizzo, who founded the walk with Bonnie Jackson 18 years ago.

The two brought Cheryl James on board later on to help out as Pizzo lives and works in California.

"After 18 years and doing this so many times, and organizing our luncheon and golf tournament, we wanted to reassess everything. We've given the Port



File photo

The Country Walk for Breast Cancer, seen in this October 2010 file photo, is on hold for a year.

■

see COUNTRY WALK | page 20

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## COUNTRY WALK

# Organizers hope walk will be supported next year

FROM PAGE 15

Funds have supported the Ramona Plaza-Bonnie Jackson Breast Screening Centre at the hospital. Ramona, Teresa's mother, died of breast cancer. Jackson is a two-time cancer survivor.

Pizzo said she, James and Jackson have also listened to the community about other orga-

nizations that they'd like to see funds go to.

"We also feel that there might be other organizations that need help, too. Maybe one event's proceeds will go to one organization and so on for the other two events, we haven't decided and this is one subject we will be discussing."

Pizzo said people have expressed their disappointment

to the three women over the fact there will be no walk this year. Others have asked them to reconsider.

"We really do need a break and we had to stop for this year. We have put a letter explaining our decision in Boggio Pharmacy, where (people) would normally pick up their pledge sheets. In that letter we are also asking the

community for their suggestion as to where they'd like to see future funds raised."

The three women said there will be a walk next year, and the other events — the Country Table Toppers Luncheon and golf tournament — will continue. The golf tournament is Saturday, Sept. 22, at Emerald Pines Golf Club, 1878 Sherk Rd., Port Colborne.

"We love Port Colborne and will continue to do our events to benefit the community," said Pizzo.

The three women said they hope everyone will support the walk in 2013.

"They know it is their event that they actually see where their money raised goes to, so we hope they will support our decision and stand by us at

this time. We have gotten comments on our Facebook page under-sounding that we need a little break."

More information on Country Walk events and the walk can be found at [www.facebook.com/teresabonniecheyl](http://www.facebook.com/teresabonniecheyl) and [www.facebook.com/pages/Country-Walk-Events/402197033175747](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Country-Walk-Events/402197033175747).  
[dave.johnson@sunmedia.ca](mailto:dave.johnson@sunmedia.ca)

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■ **FACILITIES:** Soft opening in November

# Vale Health and Wellness Centre 85% complete

**MARYANNE FIRTH**  
InPort News Staff

Centre.

The project is at "about 85% completion," Ron

Angie Desmarais requested an update.

"We're about four or five weeks behind the original schedule," Hanson said, but while adding the project is progressing nicely.

**POR T CO LBO RNE** — Work continues to move along swimmingly at the Vale Health and Wellness

The facility is expected to be "substantially completed in November" with a soft opening taking place at that time, Hanson said. The grand opening of the centre is not expected to take place

until New Year's Eve.

"We're on target, everything's moving along well," Hanson said.

What's left is mainly finishing work, he added. Landscaping is under-

way, rink boards are being installed and after Labour Day the parking lot will be paved.

*maryanne.firth@sunmedia.ca*  
Twitter: @mfirth@tribune

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■ PUBLIC HEALTH: Monitoring West Nile virus

# Mosquitoes check in, but not out

VICTORIA GRAY  
InPort News Staff

WELLAND — Niagara has 21 mosquito traps set up across the region that are monitored and checked once a week then tested for West Nile virus by people like Tara Johnston, a summer intern in Niagara Region's environmental health department.

The traps are set up in rural and suburban areas on private properties. The traps are about a metre long and are set up in trees. The top of the trap has dry ice in it, which attracts the bugs by way of carbon dioxide emissions.

Mosquitoes fly into the trap and a battery-powered fan blows into the trap so

mosquitoes cannot escape. Johnston must remove the mesh trap from the send and tie it shut, then send the mesh unit to a lab for testing.

This year the number of infected mosquitoes have soared. As of last week eight of the traps in the region's 21 test sites contained West Nile virus-infected mosquitoes.

One person in St. Catharines has tested positive for the virus so far this year.

The region is asking residents to remove any standing water on their property, and wear long sleeves and bug repellent with DEET during outdoor activities.

*victoria.gray@summedia.ca*



VICTORIA GRAY Staff Photo

Tara Johnston, a summer intern in the Region's environmental health department, describes how a mosquito trap works

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■ EDUCATION: Tech programs and partnerships net Global Best honour

# Back-to-back international awards for Catholic school board

ALLAN BENNER  
InPort News Staff

WELLAND — Niagara Catholic District School Board's efforts to prepare students for the working world has again attracted international attention.

The school board, winner of the 2010 Global Best Award from the International Partnership Network Inc., was recently notified it has again topped competition from Niagara, St. Catharines and Central America to win the prestigious bilingual award.

"They selected us again as back-to-back recipients of the Global Best Award," said education director John Crocco while announcing the achievement.

Marco Magazzani, the board's technology specialist high skills major consultant, said the award has put Niagara Catholic in the running against other award winners in the Americas and around the world — competing for one global award to be handed out in an Oscar-style event held as part of the International Education Business Partnership Conference, Sept. 25 to 28 in Durban, South Africa.

"We won the Americas in 2010, and now we won the Americas again, and now we'll find out on the 28th if we've won the world," Magazzani said.

Crocco called it extremely significant that the school board's programs and innovative partnerships formed with local industries and institutions has been recognized on an international level.

"Niagara Catholic is still the only school board in Ontario that has a classroom, a bus and that's a Holiday Inn Suites in St. Catharines. We have a fully functioning classroom and a kitchen," he said.

"And we're only one of two school boards in Canada that has a partnership with an organization like the Niagara Parks Commission," he added, referring to the board's horticultural program.

"It's an amazing opportunity for students because they can learn how to work beside internationally recognized horticulturalists."

Other partnerships have placed Niagara Catholic students on construction sites, working in automobile repair shops and in beauty salons.

The school board submitted a video as part of its application for the award this spring. Along with school board faculty and students, the video includes footage from area business and industry leaders and some graduates who have gone on

to exciting careers, such as Tanner Murray, who went through the high skills major program in culinary arts. Murray's clip is filmed in front of Buckingham Palace, where he is working as an intern preparing meals for the Royal Family.

The video also includes OSM Solar vice-president Al Wiley talking about adding a student training facility at its Welland plant. Port Colborne Mayor Vance Badaway, Niagara Region corporate services commissioner Brian Hutchings, Elaine Pihach

from Project Share, Judy Reid from Business Education Council of Niagara, Welland economic development officer Dan Degazio and Ontario Energy Minister Chris Bentley.

see WINNERS | page 24

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Additional information can be requested by contacting Sean Galbraith, SJSB Network Consulting Group (agent for Bell Canada), 1 Yonge Street, Suite 1801, Toronto, Ontario, M5E 1W7 sean@sjsbnetworkconsulting.com. The public is invited to provide comments on this proposal in writing at the same address by October 15, 2012. Please reference file number W3997 in your correspondence.



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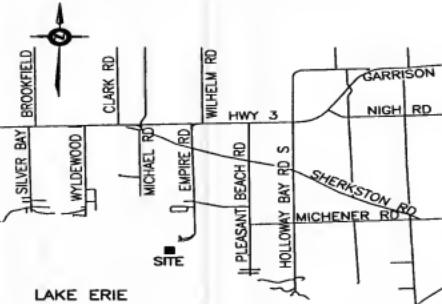
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## ■ WINNERS

# Awards presented in South Africa

FROM PAGE 23

Crocce said the Conference Board of Canada is a partner in the International Partnership

Network Inc. and the award winners are selected by organizations such as the Conference Board of Canada and its counterparts from around the world.

The board is still determining who will pick up the award in South Africa.

[allan.benner@sunmedia.ca](mailto:allan.benner@sunmedia.ca)

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ALLAN BENNER Staff Photo  
Niagara Catholic District School Board technical education consultant Marco Magazzini and education director John Crocco hold a Global Best Award for 2010, while announcing the board has just won another award just like it for the current year, from the International Partnership Network.

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# In The **NEWS**



Owner/Operator, Claudia Spiteri, of Eataly in Port Colborne would like to thank the community for welcoming and supporting their new business into the community after opening on December 1, 2011. Eataly plans to continue to be a supportive part of the community in the future by helping and giving back. Stop by Eataly at 22 Clarence St,

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From left to right: Tammy Garner, Maria Alexander, Claudia Spiteri

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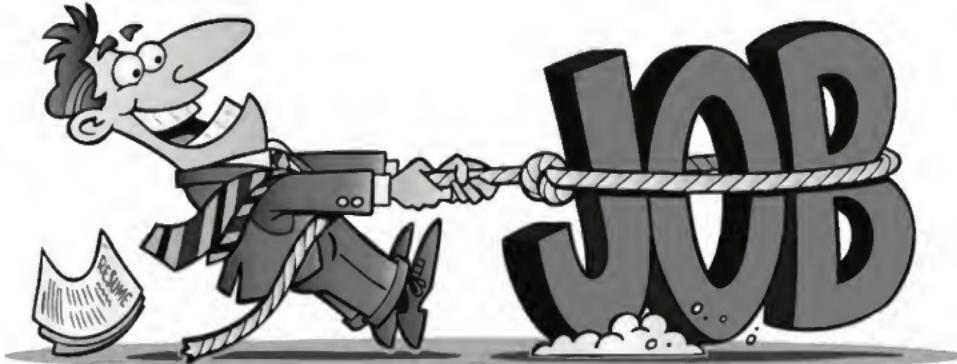
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JOHN BORG For InPort News

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